Agency	No. of Centres opened	Quantity of paddy procured
FCI	173	1062 MTs.
APSCSC Ltd.	175	660 MTs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the relative share of paddy procurement in relation to levy rice in Andhra Pradesh in much less as compared to Punjab and Haryana.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of above.

Pesticides in bottled water

950. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "pesticides in bottled water" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the popular brands of bottled water sold in Delhi and other places in the country contain extremely harmful pesticides;

(c) whether the companies manufacturing such bottled water are violating the Consumer Protection Act; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such companies and ensure that BIS norms are strictly adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. A seminar on Pesticide Residue Limit in Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water was held on 13th February, 2003 at BIS which was attended by scientists of repute and representative of World Health Organization. It concluded that the packaged drinking water and

natural mineral water produced as per existing Indian standards are safe for human consumption.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. BIS through its Scheme of Testing and Inspection and Surveillance Inspections ensures that its licensees are manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water as per the specifications stipulated in the relevant Indian Standards.

Excess foodgrains in godowns

951. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 333.14 lakh tonnes against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are still lying excess in various godowns across the country; and

(b) if so, what were the alternative storage facilities arranged for the proper storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of foodgrains as on 1.1.2003 was 482 lakh tonnes which was in excess of the buffer norms.

(b) Adequate capacity is available for scientific storage of foodgrains.

Labourers in FCI

952. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the casual labourers working in Food Corporation of India as on date, State-wise;

(b) the wage structure of these workers; and

(c) the number of workers inducted under the Direct Payment System, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) 121 casual labourers have been engaged directly, by the Food Corporation of India for the foodgrains handling operations in its depots in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The casual labourers are paid the wages as prescribed by the local District Collector/District Magistrate.